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*Cultural Integration in Europe**

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Abstract

This chapter investigates the integration processes of immigrants in Germany by comparing certain immigrant groups to natives differentiating by gender and immigrant generation. Indicators which are supposed to capture cultural integration of immigrants are differences in marital behavior as well as language abilities, ethnic identification and religious distribution. A special feature of the available data is information about overall life satisfaction, risk aversion and political interest. These indicators are also presented. All of these indicators are depicted in comparison between natives and immigrants differentiated by ethnic origin, gender and generation. This allows visualization of differences by ethnic groups and development over time. Statements about the cultural integration processes of immigrants are thus possible. Furthermore, economic integration in terms of female labor force participation is presented as an additional feature. Empirical findings suggest that differences among immigrants and between immigrants and Germans do exist and differ significantly by ethnic origin, gender and generation. But differences seem to diminish when we consider the second generations. This indicates greater adaption to German norms and habits, and thus better cultural, socio-economic and political integration of second generation immigrants in Germany.

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1 Introduction

Immigration to Germany began after the Second World War, when substantial inflows of Germans, refugees and expellees from Eastern European territories immigrated to Western Germany. Immigrant labor was needed to rebuild a dilapidated Germany. In the late 1950's, under the auspices of the Federal Labor Institute (FLI) and in cooperation with labor unions and local authorities, German employers actively recruited foreign workers without any quota limits imposed by the government. The German immigration system was, therefore, demand-driven and project-tied. Employers, free from any government quota, determined the number and the origin of the immigrant flow so that their industries would easily absorb them. Germans from East Germany were a big chunk of these laborers, but treaties for recruitment were also signed with Italy in 1955 and Spain and Greece in 1960. While the inflow of East Germans ended with the erection of the Berlin wall in 1961, the demand for workers did not. A massive shortage in labor supply especially in low qualified sectors and an extraordinary fast economic growth made the need for imported labor imperative. Additional treaties for recruitment were signed with Turkey in 1961, Portugal in 1964, and Yugoslavia in 1968.

Immigrants from Italy, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Portugal and Yugoslavia were called "guest workers" implying that their presence in Germany was only of temporary nature and based on "stay-and-return migration" in what was called the "rotation model". These immigrants prompted the transformation of the southern regions, like Bavaria and Baden Wurttemberg, from mostly agrarian into modernized industrial states. By the late 1960's, upward economic and occupational mobility of native Germans, as well as sluggish demographic growth, contributed to the tremendous inflow of guest workers (500,000 workers annually) with the subsequent German economy dependence on guest workers. It is worth noting that during this era of the German miracle, West Germany had virtually no unemployment. Not only native Germans were faring very well, but immigrants were faring well also in terms of attachment to employment and wages.

On November 22, 1973, with the oil crisis intensifying a beginning recession in Germany, the German government was forced to change its immigration policy and halt active recruitment by firms, thereby controlling the inflow of alien workers. The 1973 ban excluded immigrants from the European Common Market countries. While this new policy was effective in reducing the number of labor migrants, it backfired and increased the actual size of the foreign population, which increased through family reunification and high fertility rates. Specifically, by 1974 17.3% of all births in the Federal Republic of Germany were from guest workers (Mehrlander, 1985 [30]), and

65% of the total gross immigration, after the 1973 ban, was due to family reunification of guestworkers (Velling, 1994 [35]). Therefore, the composition of immigrants shifted from young males to women and children who arrived in Germany to join their husbands and fathers, creating a strong second generation immigrants. The government's efforts to promote return migration did not succeed resulting in an extension of duration of stay in Germany and immigrants turning from guest workers to permanent residents. After the recession "labor migrants" from Turkey, Yugoslavia, Greece, Italy and Spain were the dominant immigrant groups in Germany working in unskilled menial positions, concentrated in very few sectors and under unfavorable work conditions (Kalter and Granato (2007) [25]).

Various geopolitical reasons contributed in a yet changing composition of immigrants to Germany. In the 1980s and early 1990s the immigration inflow was boosted by asylum seekers¹ and "ethnic" Germans coming to Germany in the aftermath of the fall of the Iron Curtain and due to liberalized travel regulations. Immigration of the latter, the so-called "Aussiedler"² from Poland, Romania and the former Soviet Union, increased until a new more restrictive law was enforced in 1993. Most recently, labor migrants from Poland, the (former) Czech Republic and other Eastern European States contribute mainly to the immigration inflow to Germany.

By 2000, almost 9% of the German population is immigrants. Despite this long migration history, Germany kept quiet about being a migration nation. Taking a pioneering stance, the German government introduced the Immigration Act (Zuwanderungsgesetz) in 2001, a reduced version of which came into effect on January 1, 2005. The Act acknowledges Germany's status as an immigration country and addresses to an increasing degree difficulties accompanied by divergences between natives and immigrants. The question of how to obtain a sufficient degree of economic and social integration is thus one of the pressing topics in the current political debate. Integration as a harmonic coexistence and cooperation between different ethnic groups is fostered in order to mitigate potential conflict while preserving highly precious synergies by the mix of cultures.

One of the major concerns of researchers and politicians is how to measure the degree of integration of immigrants. In contrast to economic integration, which is comparatively easy to gauge through widely accepted indicators such as labor market participation, wage growth and immigrant earnings

¹mainly due to civil wars in Yugoslavia, conflicts in Kurdish territories of Turkey and northern Iraq. Iranians as well as Vietnamese and Chinese occupied a large percentage of asylum seekers.

²Immigrants who proved that they were of German decent were by law German and granted German citizenship almost immediately after arrival

convergence to those of natives, cultural and social integration is more difficult to define and quantify. The role of ethnic identity surfaces as important determinant of socio-economic integration. A major difficulty that studies try to tackle is potential endogeneity of the processes of economic performance and social and cultural interactions. Akerlof and Kranton (2000) [1] offer a novel theoretical framework of the utility maximization function by incorporating an individual's self-identification as a powerful motivation for behavior. They imply that if individuals achieve their "ideal self" and are comfortable with their identity then their utility increases, otherwise, their utility decreases. Bénabou and Tirole (2007) [4] model a broad class of beliefs of individuals including their identity, which people value and invest in. They also study endogenously arising self-serving beliefs linked to pride, dignity or wishful thinking. These emerging important contributions can also explain labor market integration and wage differentials. Accordingly, while some individuals have the drive and human capital to integrate and succeed in the labor market they may not reach their goal because of behavioral norms and unfulfilled or confused self-identity images.

Following a burgeoning literature on the role of ethnic identity, Constant and Zimmermann created a measurable index of ethnic identity. In 2006, Constant, Gataullina, and Zimmermann were the first to introduce the multidimensional concept of ethnic identity in economics by borrowing literature from social psychology and other social sciences. Following the original work Berry et al. (1989) [5], they developed a framework of ethnic identity and tested it empirically with German data ³. Specifically, they created a two-dimensional quantitative index - the *ethnosizer* - that measures the degree of the ethnic identity of immigrants. Ethnic identity is how individuals perceive themselves within an environment as they categorize and compare themselves to others of the same or different ethnicity. It is the closeness or distance immigrants feel from their own ethnicity or from other ethnicities, as they try to fit into the host society; it can differ among migrants of the same origin, or be comparable among migrants of different ethnic backgrounds. In stark distinction to ethnicity, ethnic identity attempts to measure how people perceive themselves rather than their ancestors. The authors allow for the individuality, personality, distinctiveness and character of a person

³Constant and Zimmermann (2009a) [9]; Constant and Zimmermann (2009b) [10]; Constant, Gataullina, Zimmermann and Zimmermann (2006) [13]; Zimmermann, Zimmermann and Constant (2007) [15] and [40]; Zimmermann (2007a) [36] and (2007b) [37]; Zimmermann, Gataullina, Constant and Zimmermann (2008) [39]; Zimmermann, Constant and Gataullina (2009) [38]; Constant, Zimmermann and Zimmermann (2009) [16]; Constant, Kahanec and Zimmermann (2009) [14]; Constant, Roberts and Zimmermann (2009) [12]; Constant and Zimmermann (2008) [8]

in an ethnic group to prevail, to differ from one person to another, and to alter and evolve in different directions. They define ethnic identity to be the balance between commitment to, affinity to, or self-identification with the culture, norms and society of origin and commitment to or self-identification with the host culture and society.

The ethnosizer contains four states or regimes of ethnic identity differentiated by the strength of cultural and social commitments to the home or host country: Assimilation, a pronounced identification with the host culture and society, coupled with a firm conformity to the norms, values and codes of conduct, and a weak identification with the ancestry; Integration, a achieved amalgam of both dedication to and identification with the origin and commitment and conformity to the host society. This is the case of a prefect bi-cultural state; Marginalization, a strong detachment from either the dominant culture or the culture of origin; and Separation, an exclusive commitment to the culture of origin even after years of emigration, paired with weak involvement in the host culture and country realities. The ethnosizer is composed of five essential elements of the ethnic identity: language ability, ethnic self-identification, visible cultural elements, ethnic interaction and future citizenship and locational plans.

This chapter focuses on the cultural integration of immigrants in Germany, a powerful player in the EU and the Western world that has the largest immigrant population in EU. The aim of this chapter is to depict the current integration status of immigrants in Germany by comparing educational gaps between partners, marriage and intermarriage rates, age at first marriage, age gaps between spouses, the number of children per woman, age at first child birth; political interest, risk attitudes, overall life satisfaction and female labor force participation. Additionally, immigrant groups are compared with respect to self-reported language abilities, ethnic self-identification and their religious believes. Thus, several determinants combined with the ethnosizer are also used in this study to determine the current degree of cultural integration. All indicators are defined as deviations from natives and differentiated by ethnic origin and immigrant generation. Empirical findings are based on panel data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) allowing for statements about development over time.

The structure of this chapter is as follows. Data and definitions as well as remarks about the empirical methods used in this study are introduced and discussed in the next sections. Descriptive statistics and corresponding estimation results are presented and interpreted afterwards. The paper concludes with a summary of the findings from the analysis. Graphs are included in the Appendix at the very end of the paper.

2 Data Source and Definitions

The analysis of the cultural integration of immigrants in Germany is based on data from the German Socio Economic Panel (GSOEP). The GSOEP is a nationally representative longitudinal study that in 2007 contained information about roughly 20,000 individuals and 11,000 private households in Germany. This unique data source provides a wealth of information about various social, cultural, political and economic aspects of individuals living in Germany and allows the testing of corresponding social and economic theories. Due to its panel design and an over-sampling of immigrants it opens unique analytical possibilities especially with regards to integration over time based on the behavior of different immigrant generations. The descriptive statistics presented refer to the period 2005 to 2007 or the most recent year for which information is available. The regressions are also estimated on data from this time period in order to exploit the richness of the data.

A well acknowledged problem related to immigrant populations and international comparisons is the definition of who is an immigrant. Depending mainly on laws about who is a native and who is an immigrant, different countries have different definitions. For example, in the U.S., the prevailing law is the *ius soli* that makes all individuals born in the U.S. American citizens by default. Until recently, Germany was recognizing the *ius sanguinis* or bloodlines as the only law for being a German citizen. With the new developments, Germany now allows under certain exceptions the law of soil to determine citizenship as well. Accordingly, we define an immigrant to be a person either not born in Germany or a person who is born in Germany but either is not a German citizen or whose mother or father is not German born or has non-German nationality. In the case where both parents are not born in Germany but also not born in the same country, the country of origin of the mother outweighs the country of origin of the father assuming that cultural habits and norms are more likely to be transferred from the mother to the child than from the father.⁴

Distinctions between first and second generations of immigrants are based on country of birth. By definition, individuals who are not born in Germany belong to the first generation of immigrants regardless of the age at which they immigrated to Germany. Individuals who were born in Germany but

⁴This definition of immigrants defines “Aussiedler” as belonging to the group of immigrants. Aussiedler are not born in Germany but eligible for German citizenship immediately after immigration due to their German bloodlines. Aussiedler are mostly born and raised in Eastern European countries, and will be treated as part of the immigrant population and do not take on an exceptional role in this analysis.

fulfil at least one of the criteria mentioned above⁵ are considered second generation immigrants. It is important to mention that second or even third generation immigrants in Germany may not be German citizens. More emphasis is placed on the country of origin than on nationality. Nationality may change over time and be related to a feeling of belonging and commitment to a specific country. Similar to ethnic identity⁶, nationality may be a dynamic feature expressing a certain degree of integration, assimilation, segregation or marginalization. In contrast, country of origin or ethnicity remains unchanged even after naturalization. Ethnicity therefore reflects cultural influences during childhood and throughout a person's adult life. When there is no information available about the country of birth of the immigrant or the parents, nationality is taken a criterion to determine immigrant status.

3 Immigrant Population in Germany

According to the definition of immigrants given above, GSOEP data show that 12.18 percent of Germany's population have an immigration background either personally or induced by their parents (Table 1). Since the GSOEP over-samples the immigrant population in Germany there may be discrepancies between GSOEP statistics and official statistics by the German Statistical Office. Most recently, the German Statistical Office does not only report immigrant status defined by nationality, but introduced a new classification which is supposed to account for migration background. Accordingly, individuals residing in Germany either belong to the group of persons with or without migration background. Previously, individuals holding other than German citizenship were counted as "Auslaender" ignoring country of birth and family background.

Depending on which definition is used, official data state that 8.8 percent of Germany's population is of foreign nationality ("Auslaender") in contrast to almost 19 percent of people with migration background. Among these persons with migration background, roughly 68 percent belong to the group of people with their own migration experience (comparable to the first generation immigrants) and 32 percent to the group of persons without migration experience (second or later immigrant generation).⁷ Also in the GSOEP data, the majority of the immigrants observed, namely 76.82 percent, are classified

⁵hold other than German citizenship, one of the parents is not German born or has a foreign nationality

⁶see e.g. Phinney et al. (2001) [33]; Phinney (1992) [34]; Constant, Gataullina and Zimmermann (2009) [11]

⁷see Statistisches Bundesamt, 2009

as first generation whereas 23.18 percent are second generation immigrants (Table 2). This bias from official data might be related to the fact that the GSOEP contains information mostly about individuals who are older than 16 years of age. This restriction possibly underestimates the share of younger immigrants on the total population and thus the share of second generation immigrants in the sample. In total, the data used within this study include 11,078 immigrants and 79,863 Germans.⁸

Table 1: Immigrant Share on Total Population

	Freq.	Percent
German	79,863	87.82
Immigrant	11,078	12.18
Total	90,941	100
<i>Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007</i>		

Further, immigrants in Germany are distinguished by country of origin. We look at immigrants coming from one of the five sending countries during the guest worker period, namely Turkey, the former Yugoslavia, Spain, Greece and Italy.⁹ Additionally, we include Polish and Russian immigrants since they are increasingly important ethnic groups in Germany today. Table 3 shows the distribution of these ethnic groups living in Germany between 2005 and 2007. Accordingly, Turkish immigrants represent 21.13 percent of the immigrant population and are therefore the single biggest ethnic group present in Germany. Even though Spanish immigrants made up a major part of the guest worker population coming to Germany during the 1950s and 1960s, immigrants who originate from Spain are an almost negligible part of the immigrant community today and represent only 2.06 percent of the immigrant population. Hence, results regarding this group need to be treated with caution. Findings reported in the tables might not be representative of Spanish immigrants. They are stated, nonetheless, mostly for reasons of completeness. The ethnic group labelled "Other" refers to the foreign population in Germany that originates from other than the countries explicitly mentioned above.

Considering the generational distribution of immigrants, Table 2 shows that within each immigrant group the majority of individuals belong to the first generation. This holds especially true for immigrants from Poland and Russia, who represent the most recent trends of immigration inflows to Germany. The share of first generation immigrants from these countries lies at

⁸All numbers presented are not weighted

⁹The category "Former Yugoslavia" includes immigrants from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia and Kosovo-Albania.

Table 2: Generational Distribution

Ethnic Origin	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	81.27	18.73
Turkey	72.70	27.30
Ex-Yugoslavia	75.85	24.15
Greece	63.25	36.75
Italy	57.67	42.33
Spain	61.40	38.60
Poland	86.66	13.34
Russia	94.93	5.07
Total	76.82	23.18

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

86.66 percent for Poles and even 94.93 percent for Russians. Thus, statements regarding differences between first and second generation of these two ethnic groups must be treated carefully due to the small numbers of observations in the second generation. As a consequence, regressions that account for differences in behavior by generation occasionally do not include Russian second generation immigrants.

Table 3: Immigrant Groups

Ethnic Origin	Freq.	Percent
Other	3,854	34.79
Turkey	2,341	21.13
Ex-Yugoslavia	1,263	11.4
Greece	517	4.67
Italy	1,049	9.47
Spain	228	2.06
Poland	1,057	9.54
Russia	769	6.94
Total	11,078	100

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

Comparing the ethnic distribution by generation, Table 4 shows that the share of Turkish, Italian, Greek and Spanish immigrants, is greater in the second than in the first generation. First generation Russians (8.58 percent) and Poles (10.76 percent) are also quite dominant ethnic groups, whereas the share of second generation Poles and Russian is relatively small. The share of immigrants from the countries of former Yugoslavia is almost identical in both generations.¹⁰

¹⁰The ethnic distribution by generation does not differ much by gender. Corresponding data disaggregated by sex are not shown but can be added on request.

Table 4: Ethnic Distribution by Generation

Ethnic Origin	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	36.80	28.12
Turkey	20.00	24.88
Ex-Yugoslavia	11.26	11.88
Greece	3.84	7.40
Italy	7.11	17.29
Spain	1.65	3.43
Poland	10.76	5.49
Russia	8.58	1.52

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

4 Integration Indicators

4.1 Empirical Model

We now turn to the cultural indicators that can provide insights to the integration process of immigrants in Germany. The estimation methods used to measure the effect of ethnic groups and generations on selected indicators are based on simple pooled OLS and Logit techniques run on data during the period 2005 to 2007.¹¹ Explanatory variables used in each model are dichotomous variables accounting for membership to one of the ethnic groups interacted with a dummy variable capturing belonging to the first or second immigrant generation. Additionally, three different birth cohorts are distinguished and included in the regression. The first cohort depicts immigrants born before 1942 who are older than 65 in 2007. The second birth group includes immigrants born between 1942 and 1967. In 2007 they are thus between 40 and 65. This group is set to be the base category in all estimations. Consequently, the last age group contains immigrants who are younger than 40 in 2007. The regression model includes years of schooling as an additional explanatory variable.¹² Native Germans are the ethnic reference group. Finally, each regression is run separately for men and women to account for possible gender peculiarities. The regression results are presented as tables within the text, figures visualizing these results are attached in the Appendix on pages 47 *ff.*

4.2 Education

Table 5 shows the average years of schooling for each ethnic group and additionally differentiated by generation and gender. Accordingly, both male

¹¹In case there is no information available for 2005 to 2007, the most recent year is considered instead.

¹²Except in the regression on the individual gender gap in education

and female second generation immigrants tend to have higher education than first generation immigrants.¹³ The increase in education between generations is especially big (almost two additional years of schooling) for Greek immigrants. But still, even for Greek immigrants, average years of education are lower for immigrants regardless of gender compared to natives and this holds for the second generation as well. Turkish immigrants in particular have very low education levels, usually less than high school. That is, Turkish women have 9.29 years of schooling and men 9.93 years of schooling. In contrast, native women have on average 12.11 years of education and men 12.55 years. In general, immigrants from one of the guest worker countries have less education than more recent immigrant groups such as Poles or Russians indicating different patterns in the educational composition of more recent migration inflows.

Table 5: Average Years of Schooling

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	11.83	11.93	12.22	12.36
Germany	12.11		12.55	
Turkey	9.29	11.24	9.93	10.79
Ex-Yugoslavia	9.92	11.53	10.67	11.01
Greece	9.56	11.99	10.50	12.35
Italy	9.46	11.37	10.02	11.53
Spain	10.27	10.23	9.97	13.15
Poland	11.78	13.31	11.91	10.98
Russia	11.04	no obs.	10.85	13.07

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

Gender comparisons further show that in almost every ethnic group first generation men have more education than first generation women. Interestingly, the opposite is true for the econd generation at least for Turks, ex-Yugoslavs and Poles. Second generation women from these ethnic groups have more years of schooling than their second generation male counterparts. For natives, gender differences in education can also be observed showing higher levels of education for German men than for German women.

Considering, whether differences in education are not only present for ethnic groups in general but also between spouses and thus on an individual level, Table 6 reports the average gap in education between partners differentiated by ethnic group and immigrant generation. Here we consider only individuals who report living with a partner in the same household. The question is whether educational diversity is more common among immigrants than among natives.

¹³With exception of Poles and Spaniards, but as mentioned before, these numbers might not be representative due to small sample sizes.

To that end, we construct a variable of the difference of "*own years of education*" minus "*years of education of the partner*". A negative difference, as is usually the case for most first generation women, indicates that on average this gender group has less education than their partner. Consequently, for first generation immigrant men the education differences are mainly positive indicating more education for the husband compared to his wife.¹⁴ Accordingly, first generation Turkish men have on average 0.31 more years of education than their partner; Turkish women who also belong to the first generation have an educational deficit of more than 0.6 years. In contrast, Turkish women who are born in Germany and hence part of the second generation, have even more education than their partners (0.55 years). For their second generation male counterparts the partner difference decreases compared to the parental generation to merely 0.13 more years of education but still remains positive.¹⁵

Table 6: Individual Gap in Education between Spouses

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	-0.35	-0.39	0.45	0.69
Germany	-0.48		0.48	
Turkey	-0.63	0.55	0.31	0.13
Ex-Yugoslavia	-0.90	1.36	0.76	-1.22
Greece	-0.76	0.86	0.38	0.30
Italy	-0.73	0.25	0.20	0.78
Spain	-0.98	0.00	-0.97	-1.77
Poland	0.03	-0.18	0.05	-2.70
Russia	0.42	no obs.	-0.16	3.00

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

Table 7 shows estimation outcomes for the individual differences between spouses on the explanatory variables mentioned above¹⁶ for men and women separately. Accordingly, the average difference in the education of native women who were born between 1942 and 1965 is negative indicating that women of this generation have less schooling than their partner. The difference decreases for younger birth cohorts ("cohort_3") and increases for older generations ("cohort_1"). For Turkish women who were not born in

¹⁴The numbers presented in Table 6 need not be identically reverse due to mixed marriages and different ethnic classifications for men and women.

¹⁵Please note that there is no information available on the gender gap in education of second generation Russian immigrants. Please also keep in mind that results for Spanish immigrants might be biased due to small observation numbers.

¹⁶Ethnic groups dummies interacted with generation dummies and dichotomous variables accounting for three different birth cohorts, born between 1942 and 1965 being the reference category

Germany ("turk1st") the difference is greater and significantly different from native women indicating greater disparities between husband and wife in this ethnic group. In contrast, for second generation Turkish women the difference becomes positive implying better schooling levels for them compared to their partner. Similar patterns hold for female immigrants from ex-Yugoslavia. Polish and Russian women are an exception in that they show better educational skills of wives compared to their husbands for the first generation already; at least for immigrants born after 1942.¹⁷

For men the picture is slightly different. As expected, German men between 40 and 65 have on average more years of schooling than their partners. While this educational gap is even bigger for older birth cohorts, it decreases and reverses for the youngest age group. Turkish, Greek and Italian men do not significantly differ from German men when it comes to education differences within the partnership, whereas for the remaining immigrant groups the difference in education decreases for both immigrant generations. First generation ex-Yugoslavs as well as second generation Russian men are an exception. The decrease in the educational gap is even bigger for second generation individuals indicating more equality among partners in later immigrant generations.

Summing up, the educational advantage of men over women is present and even increases for first generation immigrants compared to Germans. However, it vanishes or becomes negative for second generation individuals. These findings indicate that women in the second generation have on average better education in terms of years of schooling compared to their partners than women in their parental generation and hence converge towards more equal education levels within a partnership.

4.3 Marital Behavior

Table 8, shows that most first generation immigrants are married and living in the same household as the partner whereas most second generation immigrants are single. This is not so much surprising and can be due to the different age structures in the two generations as can be seen from Table 9. On average, the first generation is slightly older than native Germans whereas the second generation is markedly younger.

Turning to the marital behavior of the first generation we see that it differs noticeably from that of the native population. Especially Turkish immigrants show very high marriage rates. For instance, among first generation Turkish men the share of those living with a partner is 75.74 percent compared to

¹⁷There is no information available for second generation Russian women.

Table 7: Individual Gap in Education between Spouses

Ethnic Origin	Women	Men
other1st	0.0725 (0.0825)	0.0001 (0.0888)
other2nd	-0.1557 (0.2950)	0.4518 (0.2648)
turk1st	-0.3358** (0.1074)	-0.0068 (0.1026)
turk2nd	0.6130* (0.2616)	0.1766 (0.2668)
yugos1st	-0.4806** (0.1552)	0.3445* (0.1555)
yugos2nd	1.5038*** (0.3564)	-1.2416** (0.4363)
greek1st	-0.2315 (0.2396)	-0.1730 (0.2293)
greek2nd	0.9074 (0.4662)	0.2181 (0.5255)
italian1st	-0.2621 (0.2080)	-0.2156 (0.1689)
italian2nd	0.3495 (0.2957)	0.6875 (0.3601)
spaniard1st	-0.4252 (0.4828)	-1.3976*** (0.3758)
spaniard2nd	0.2144 (0.9300)	-1.8926* (0.7424)
pole1st	0.4233** (0.1467)	-0.3851* (0.1640)
pole2nd	-0.1262 (0.5976)	-2.6499* (1.1012)
russian1st	0.8640*** (0.1712)	-0.5805** (0.1790)
russian2nd		2.5827 (1.4209)
_Icohort_1	-0.6578*** (0.0453)	0.5761*** (0.0415)
_Icohort_3	0.3829*** (0.0419)	-0.4674*** (0.0453)
_cons	-0.4332*** (0.0241)	0.4173*** (0.0243)
<i>N</i>	20459	20461
<i>r</i> ²	0.0245	0.0237
<i>F</i>	30.2589	27.5745
<i>ll</i>	-4.743e+04	-4.745e+04

OLS Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 8: Marital Behavior

Ethnic Origin	Women			
	1. Gen		2. Gen	
	Single	Married	Single	Married
Other	39.83	60.17	73.62	26.38
Turkey	24.39	75.61	65.08	34.92
Ex-Yugoslavia	36.87	63.13	63.41	36.59
Greece	28.30	71.70	65.31	34.69
Italy	38.55	61.45	63.95	36.05
Spain	51.72	48.28	74.36	25.64
Poland	40.49	59.51	74.03	25.97
Russia	39.02	60.98	100.00	0.00
Germany	51.68	48.32		

Ethnic Origin	Men			
	1. Gen		2. Gen	
	Single	Married	Single	Married
Other	37.74	62.26	71.62	28.38
Turkey	24.26	75.74	67.59	32.41
Ex-Yugoslavia	36.60	63.40	75.18	24.82
Greece	23.81	76.19	71.74	28.26
Italy	27.99	72.01	72.99	27.01
Spain	40.24	59.76	57.14	42.86
Poland	36.36	63.64	92.19	7.81
Russia	39.65	60.35	86.36	13.64
Germany	50.56	49.44		

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

a marriage rate of only 49.44 percent for German men. First generation women exhibit a similar marital behavior to men of the same ethnic group with marriages rates mostly at or above 60 percent. In contrast, second generation women have marriage rates only around 25 to 35 percent. They are noticeably higher (between 34 and 37 percent) for immigrants from the former guest worker countries. For second generation men marriage rates are somewhat smaller especially for Poles and Russians. Only 32.41 percent of Turkish men have similar marriage rates to their female counterparts. For natives, there are hardly any differences in the marital behavior of men and women. The share of married Germans is almost 50 percent indicating a higher tendency of natives towards singledom compared to immigrants.

These descriptive findings are confirmed in the estimation results presented in Table 10. Regardless of gender, first generation immigrants tend to be more likely to be married than Germans whereas second generation immigrants seem to be less likely to be living with a partner. Polish women and Spanish men are the only groups whose marital behavior does not differ from that of natives irrespective of generation. And also second generation Turks show no significant deviations from Germans with respect to marital behavior.

Table 9: Average Age

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	45.47	28.20	46.51	29.77
Germany	41.44		40.06	
Turkey	44.56	25.08	45.49	24.55
Ex-Yugoslavia	48.94	28.85	48.81	27.15
Greece	54.99	28.44	54.23	28.79
Italy	52.27	28.82	51.79	28.12
Spain	53.48	26.97	52.13	30.35
Poland	43.69	23.26	46.50	20.58
Russia	46.22	19.18	44.57	24.00

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

4.4 Intermarriage

Analyzing differences in marital behavior even further, Table 11 shows that the type of marriage differs noticeably by immigrant generation and ethnic group. Intermarriage in this course is defined as the living partnership of an immigrant with a native German. Consequently, a marriage between for instance a Greek and a Turkish immigrant is not considered intermarriage. This restrictive definition is based on the assumption that intermarriage is supposed to indicate integration to the German society. An immigrant who is living with a native partner possibly signals greater commitment to Germany than an immigrant who marries another immigrant or even marries within his or her own ethnic community.¹⁸

Among those who are married, intermarriage rates are especially low for first generation Turks ranging between 1.94 percent for first generation women and 5.79 percent for men. In contrast, Italian men show comparably high intermarriage rates of 17.28 to 27.42 percent already in the first generation possibly indicating better integration of Italians compared to Turks. But one should note that low intermarriage rates need not automatically indicate low integration ability, but is highly related to the availability of a partner within the own ethnic group. Thus, immigrants who belong to a dominant immigrant group, as do Turks, might simply face a bigger market of potential partners with the same ethnic background which decreases the probability to intermarry. This argument is supported by the intermarriage rates of Germans - as the biggest ethnic group. German men only show intermarriage rates of 4.49 percent and German women even lower (3.89 percent).

¹⁸For further research on intermarriage see e.g. Kalmijn (1998) [24]; Lievens (1998) [28] and (1999) [29]; Kantarevic (2004) [26]; Meng and Gregory (2005) [31]; Meng and Meurs (2006) [32]; Gonz  les-Ferrer (2006) [23]; Chiswick and Houseworth (2008) [19]; Furtado and Theodoropoulos (2008) [22]; Furtado (2009) [21]

Table 10: Marriage Probability

	Women	Men
other1st (d)	0.0552*** (0.0119)	0.0831*** (0.0107)
other2nd (d)	-0.2490*** (0.0348)	-0.1827*** (0.0331)
turk1st (d)	0.2047*** (0.0106)	0.1888*** (0.0063)
turk2nd (d)	-0.0375 (0.0341)	0.0385 (0.0229)
yugosl1st (d)	0.0643** (0.0217)	0.0893*** (0.0173)
yugosl2nd (d)	-0.1517*** (0.0453)	-0.1282* (0.0503)
greek1st (d)	0.1575*** (0.0273)	0.0993*** (0.0281)
greek2nd (d)	-0.1987** (0.0617)	-0.1728** (0.0627)
italian1st (d)	0.0270 (0.0326)	0.1268*** (0.0168)
italian2nd (d)	-0.1158** (0.0391)	-0.1082** (0.0409)
spaniard1st (d)	-0.1850* (0.0746)	-0.0388 (0.0551)
spaniard2nd (d)	-0.1515 (0.1132)	0.0286 (0.0586)
pole1st (d)	0.0348 (0.0222)	0.0559* (0.0217)
pole2nd (d)	-0.0733 (0.0761)	-0.3785** (0.1168)
russian1st (d)	0.0745** (0.0233)	0.0599** (0.0213)
russian2nd (d)		-0.2500 (0.2119)
_Icohort_1 (d)	-0.2617*** (0.0076)	0.0069 (0.0072)
_Icohort_3 (d)	-0.2223*** (0.0068)	-0.3162*** (0.0067)
bilzeit	0.0089*** (0.0011)	0.0149*** (0.0010)
<i>N</i>	31839	29018
<i>r</i> ²		
<i>F</i>		
<i>ll</i>	-1.830e+04	-1.438e+04

Logit Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Marginal effects; Standard errors in parentheses

(d) for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Therefore, it is important to also look at differences by generation and thus behavior over time.

Second generation immigrants who were born and thus had the opportunity to socialize with natives all their lives, are expected to be more likely to intermarry than immigrants who migrated to Germany possibly already married to another immigrant. This assumption is actually supported by empirical findings for all immigrant groups. Second generation Greeks and Spaniards show lower intermarriage rates compared to the parental generation. For all remaining ethnic groups, second generation immigrants are more likely to be married to a native than immigrants from their parental generation indicating greater mixing with the native population of the younger generations. Thereby, the increase in intermarriage rates between generations is especially big for Turkish men. In contrast, Greek women are less likely to intermarry even if they belong to the second generation.

Table 12 shows estimation results from logistic regressions on the probability to intermarry. When comparing marital behavior by ethnic group and generation with that of natives, immigrant men show a higher probability to intermarry than Germans. With the exception of Turkish and Greek women of either generation, this also holds for immigrant women. The likelihood to intermarry is in general bigger for second generation immigrants than for the first generation. This suggests that immigrants born in the host country show more willingness to integrate in the marriage market than members of their parental generation. The only exception is Turkish women, who behave just like Germans regardless of the generation.

4.5 Age at First Marriage

Not only are there differences by immigrant group regarding partner choice, but also with respect to age at first marriage. Table 13 reports the share of people who are older than 25 but were first married before the age of 25. Our results show that first generation immigrants are more likely to be married before the age of 25 regardless of gender than individuals of later generations. Marriage rates at age 25 for that group are at or above 70 percent for most immigrant groups and even higher for Turks. Thus, almost 89 percent of first generation Turkish women were married before the age of 25. In sharp contrast, less than 57 percent of the native women were married before the age of 25. In general, the second generation shows lower shares of individuals who marry prior to their 25th birthday and a higher tendency towards marriage at later ages. The exception here are Spanish and Italian

Table 11: Intermarriage Rates

Ethnic Origin		Intermarriage	Women	no Class.
			Intra-ethnic	
Other	<i>1.Gen</i>	45.39	51.41	3.20
	<i>2.Gen</i>	80.00	12.22	7.78
Turkey	<i>1.Gen</i>	1.94	97.57	0.49
	<i>2.Gen</i>	3.43	95.47	1.10
Ex-Yugoslavia	<i>1.Gen</i>	14.01	81.85	4.14
	<i>2.Gen</i>	33.90	59.32	6.78
Greece	<i>1.Gen</i>	6.14	90.35	3.51
	<i>2.Gen</i>	6.06	84.85	9.09
Italy	<i>1.Gen</i>	17.28	79.63	3.09
	<i>2.Gen</i>	33.72	61.63	4.65
Spain	<i>1.Gen</i>	51.85	48.15	0.00
	<i>2.Gen</i>	36.36	36.36	27.27
Poland	<i>1.Gen</i>	30.31	66.56	3.13
	<i>2.Gen</i>	90.00	10.00	0.00
Russia	<i>1.Gen</i>	15.70	82.64	1.65
	<i>2.Gen</i>	15.70	82.64	1.65
Germany		3.89	91.59	4.52

Ethnic Origin		Intermarriage	Men	no Class.
			Intra-ethnic	
Other	<i>1.Gen</i>	37.89	59.78	2.33
	<i>2.Gen</i>	74.77	16.82	8.41
Turkey	<i>1.Gen</i>	5.79	93.92	0.30
	<i>2.Gen</i>	16.04	74.53	9.43
Ex-Yugoslavia	<i>1.Gen</i>	13.44	85.90	0.66
	<i>2.Gen</i>	31.43	68.57	0.00
Greece	<i>1.Gen</i>	15.27	80.92	3.82
	<i>2.Gen</i>	19.23	69.23	11.54
Italy	<i>1.Gen</i>	27.42	71.77	0.81
	<i>2.Gen</i>	66.67	31.58	1.75
Spain	<i>1.Gen</i>	63.27	34.69	2.04
	<i>2.Gen</i>	72.73	0.00	27.27
Poland	<i>1.Gen</i>	21.03	77.38	1.59
	<i>2.Gen</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00
Russia	<i>1.Gen</i>	3.29	96.24	0.47
	<i>2.Gen</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00
Germany		4.49	92.95	2.56

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, only persons who report a partner

Table 12: Intermarriage Probability

Ethnic Origin	Women	Men
other1st (d)	0.3285*** (0.0138)	0.3024*** (0.0153)
other2nd (d)	0.3154*** (0.0341)	0.3195*** (0.0327)
turk1st (d)	-0.0029 (0.0084)	0.0385** (0.0123)
turk2nd (d)	0.0152 (0.0189)	0.0995** (0.0319)
yugosl1st (d)	0.1199*** (0.0212)	0.0857*** (0.0208)
yugosl2nd (d)	0.1756*** (0.0409)	0.1316** (0.0460)
greek1st (d)	0.0476 (0.0287)	0.1151*** 0.1151***
greek2nd (d)	0.0042 (0.0252)	0.0614 (0.0424)
italian1st (d)	0.1465*** (0.0319)	0.2774*** (0.0316)
italian2nd (d)	0.1971*** (0.0371)	0.3182*** (0.0460)
spaniard1st (d)	0.3356*** (0.0747)	0.5140*** (0.0618)
spaniard2nd (d)	0.2334* (0.1094)	0.4839*** (0.0883)
pole1st (d)	0.2251*** (0.0230)	0.1404*** (0.0243)
pole2nd (d)	0.4929*** (0.0833)	0.1893* (0.0862)
russian1st (d)	0.1174*** (0.0230)	-0.0024 (0.0138)
russian2nd (d)		0.4410* (0.1929)
.lcohort_1 (d)	-0.0105*** (0.0022)	-0.0091*** (0.0025)
.lcohort_3 (d)	-0.0045* (0.0019)	-0.0118*** (0.0023)
bilzeit	0.0026*** (0.0003)	0.0028*** (0.0004)
<i>N</i>	31839	29018
<i>r</i> ²		
<i>F</i>		
<i>ll</i>	-5155.9486	-5266.9723

Logit Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Marginal effects; Standard errors in parentheses

(d) for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

immigrants.¹⁹

Compared to natives, estimates presented in Table 14 and the corresponding Figures show that for women there is no statistically significant difference in the probability to be married before the age of 25 between Germans and second generation immigrants; Turkish women being an exception. In contrast, first generation immigrants seem to be more likely to be married young compared to natives. We find positive and significant effects for Turkish, Greek, Polish and Russian woman as well as for men from Turkey, the former Yugoslavia, Greece and Poland. While this confirms the different marriage behavior of first generation immigrants, there is no difference in marriage behavior between Germans and the second generation.

4.6 Age Gap between Spouses

We now turn our attention to age disparities between partners, because partner constellations might be different with respect to age of the spouses. Immigrants living in a partnership where age differences between partners are about the same as for Germans might reflect greater adoption of German norms and marital habits and thus more social integration. Table 15, shows that the age gap between spouses differs moderately by generation and ethnic origin. For Germans, the average age gap between partners is about 2.7 years. For most first generation immigrants from the guest worker countries the difference is slightly bigger with a maximum average difference being 4 years for Greeks. For Poles and Russian the marital age difference is mainly smaller than among natives. For second generation immigrants the difference between partners is smaller except among Italians as well as Spanish and Polish women.

Controlling for educational levels and birth cohorts, estimation coefficients presented in Table 16 indicate that among first generation Italian and Greek women the difference in the spouses age widens, whereas it decreases for Spanish, Polish and Russian women. This is partly confirmed by findings for men. Here, the difference increases for first generation Turk, ex-Yugoslav, Greek and Italian men but diminishes for first generation Russians. There is hardly any difference between spousal age gaps of natives and second generation individuals, second generation Turkish women being an exception.

¹⁹Please note that there is no information available about the marriage behavior of second generation Polish immigrants.

Table 13: Married before the Age of 25

Ethnic Origin		Share of Women	
		not married before 25	married before 25
Other	<i>1. Gen</i>	37.47	62.53
	<i>2. Gen</i>	58.79	41.21
Turkey	<i>1. Gen</i>	11.78	88.22
	<i>2. Gen</i>	30.61	69.39
Ex-Yugoslavia	<i>1. Gen</i>	29.81	70.19
	<i>2. Gen</i>	63.30	36.70
Greece	<i>1. Gen</i>	23.27	76.73
	<i>2. Gen</i>	63.49	36.51
Italy	<i>1. Gen</i>	24.81	75.19
	<i>2. Gen</i>	51.80	48.20
Spain	<i>1. Gen</i>	46.55	53.45
	<i>2. Gen</i>	58.82	41.18
Poland	<i>1. Gen</i>	28.82	71.18
	<i>2. Gen</i>	68.97	31.03
Russia	<i>1. Gen</i>	24.62	75.38
	<i>2. Gen</i>	24.62	75.38
Germany		43.22	56.78

Ethnic Origin		Share of Men	
		not married before 25	married before 25
Other	<i>1. Gen</i>	55.45	44.55
	<i>2. Gen</i>	89.33	10.67
Turkey	<i>1. Gen</i>	28.76	71.24
	<i>2. Gen</i>	54.88	45.12
Ex-Yugoslavia	<i>1. Gen</i>	41.98	58.02
	<i>2. Gen</i>	87.91	12.09
Greece	<i>1. Gen</i>	59.52	40.48
	<i>2. Gen</i>	78.18	21.82
Italy	<i>1. Gen</i>	57.18	42.82
	<i>2. Gen</i>	76.42	23.58
Spain	<i>1. Gen</i>	50.00	50.00
	<i>2. Gen</i>	75.68	24.32
Poland	<i>1. Gen</i>	40.65	59.35
	<i>2. Gen</i>	100.00	0.00
Russia	<i>1. Gen</i>	29.89	70.11
	<i>2. Gen</i>	30.63	69.37
Germany		61.78	38.22

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, only persons older 25

Table 14: Probability of being first married before 25

	Women	Men
other1st (d)	0.0663*** (0.0145)	0.0631*** (0.0172)
other2nd (d)	-0.0241 (0.0473)	-0.2442*** (0.0339)
turk1st (d)	0.2578*** (0.0156)	0.3288*** (0.0190)
turk2nd (d)	0.2677*** (0.0252)	0.3258*** (0.0376)
yugos1st (d)	0.0221 (0.0286)	0.1578*** (0.0301)
yugos2nd (d)	-0.0431 (0.0556)	-0.2232*** (0.0637)
greek1st (d)	0.1098* (0.0450)	-0.0846* (0.0380)
greek2nd (d)	0.0131 (0.0720)	0.0729 (0.0904)
italian1st (d)	0.0497 (0.0398)	-0.0568 (0.0295)
italian2nd (d)	0.0111 (0.0491)	-0.0115 (0.0622)
spaniard1st (d)	-0.2318** (0.0733)	-0.0003 (0.0616)
spaniard2nd (d)	-0.1338 (0.1492)	-0.0018 (0.1184)
pole1st (d)	0.1185*** (0.0244)	0.1706*** (0.0316)
pole2nd (d)	0.0476 (0.1016)	
russian1st (d)	0.1736*** (0.0262)	0.3001*** (0.0328)
_Icohort_1 (d)	-0.0834*** (0.0079)	-0.0132 (0.0074)
_Icohort_3 (d)	-0.3057*** (0.0075)	-0.2924*** (0.0065)
bilzeit	-0.0489*** (0.0012)	-0.0290*** (0.0012)
<i>N</i>	29020	26378
<i>r</i> ²		
<i>F</i>		
<i>ll</i>	-1.755e+04	-1.645e+04

Logit Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Marginal effects; Standard errors in parentheses

(d) for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 15: Average Age Gap between Spouses

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	-3.61	-2.65	2.68	1.57
Germany		-2.69		2.78
Turkey	-2.80	-2.66	2.73	2.02
Ex-Yugoslavia	-3.49	-3.64	3.23	2.66
Greece	-3.97	-2.50	3.79	2.46
Italy	-3.81	-3.37	3.60	3.45
Spain	-0.63	5.63	2.69	1.31
Poland	-2.29	-2.90	2.23	-0.40
Russia	-2.00	no obs.	1.20	3.00

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, only persons reporting a partner

4.7 Number of Children

In addition, we find that differences exist in the family structure namely with respect to the number of children per women. These differences are not only between natives and immigrants but also among ethnic groups. As documented in Table 17 first generation Turkish women have on average more children than women from any other country and in particular more children than natives.²⁰ The average number of children for German women is less than 2 whereas for first generation Turkish women is more than 3. The number of children per women in the second generation is in general lower than in the first generation. Interestingly, it is mostly also smaller than for natives. Turkish women are among those who have higher birth rates than natives even among the second generation. For Greek, Italian and ex-Yugoslavs the average number of children per women is noticeably smaller in later immigrant cohorts.

As it can be seen from estimation results presented in Table 18 differences in the number of children are mainly statistically significant for first generation immigrant women, who have consistently more children than natives. This is especially true for first generation Turkish women who have on average one more child than German women do. For second generation female Turks the effect is not significant. Negative trends can be observed for second generation immigrants from the former Yugoslavian countries. In general, for Spaniards, Greeks and the second generation the number of children does not significantly differ from natives. This indicates that later immigrant generations integrate not only with respect to marriage behavior such as the age gap between spouses, age at marriage and marriage probability but also with regards to family structure such as the number of children.

²⁰The numbers presented refer to women older than 40

Table 16: Age Gap between Spouses

	Women	Men
other1st	-0.6688*** (0.1481)	-0.0511 (0.1586)
other2nd	0.5818 (0.4969)	-0.6182 (0.4574)
turk1st	0.2661 (0.1989)	0.4047* (0.1853)
turk2nd	1.3275** (0.4645)	0.4781 (0.4609)
yugos1st	-0.4357 (0.2674)	0.8790** (0.2774)
yugos2nd	-0.4982 (0.6162)	0.8539 (0.7646)
greek1st	-1.2288** (0.4342)	0.8434* (0.4072)
greek2nd	0.8562 (0.8396)	0.4396 (0.9035)
italian1st	-1.1146** (0.3764)	1.1838*** (0.3015)
italian2nd	-0.0572 (0.5168)	1.3473* (0.6157)
spaniard1st	1.9772* (0.8686)	-0.0066 (0.6594)
spaniard2nd	10.9491*** (1.7048)	-0.9010 (1.1650)
pole1st	0.6539* (0.2627)	-0.5186 (0.2962)
pole2nd	0.5154 (1.0102)	-1.9631 (2.0179)
russian1st	0.8405** (0.3007)	-1.4171*** (0.3212)
russian2nd	0.0000 (.)	0.1440 (2.6037)
_lcohort_1	1.0921*** (0.0832)	0.8310*** (0.0748)
_lcohort_3	-0.7485*** (0.0739)	-1.1176*** (0.0806)
bilzeit	0.0369** (0.0122)	0.0351** (0.0112)
_cons	-3.1784*** (0.1585)	2.3300*** (0.1518)
<i>N</i>	21792	21487
<i>r</i> ²	0.0218	0.0233
<i>F</i>	26.9761	26.9993
<i>ll</i>	-6.373e+04	-6.284e+04

OLS Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 17: Average Number of Children per Women

Ethnic Origin	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	2.14	2.20
Germany		1.84
Turkey	3.17	2.00
Ex-Yugoslavia	2.26	0.70
Greece	2.04	1.00
Italy	2.80	1.23
Spain	1.87	2.57
Poland	2.01	no obs
Russia	2.56	no obs

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, only women older 40

4.8 Age at First Child

Apart from marital behavior and family composition, birth behavior might also give insights to the cultural adaptation and integration success. Considering the age at first child as depicted in Table 19, first generation immigrant women seem to be only slightly younger when they give birth to their first child compared to natives, whereas second generation women seem to be a little older. Again, Turkish women stand out with a comparably young age at first child; on average 22.74 for the first generation. Interestingly, the age at first child is much higher for the second generation Turkish women (27 years of age). In comparison, German women give birth to their first child at the age of 25 on average. Results from a simple regression support the first impression of hardly any differences between immigrants and natives. The difference in age at first child almost vanishes for all second generation immigrants. It differs significantly from natives only for a few immigrants groups such as Spaniards (Table 20).

4.9 Religion

Turning now from family matters to religious aspects, Table 21 shows the distribution of religious beliefs within each ethnic group differentiated by gender and generation. It is obvious from this table that no religious differences can be observed between men and women or between first and second generation immigrants within a single ethnic group. That is, regardless of gender or generation the majority of Turkish immigrants who report a religion are Muslims, most Italian, Spanish and Polish immigrants are Catholic and the majority of Russian immigrants are Christian Orthodox. Among Germans, Protestants are a slight majority closely followed by Catholics.

Table 18: Number of children

Ethnic Origin	Women older 40
other1st	0.3026*** (0.0437)
other2nd	0.2717 (0.2115)
turk1st	1.0065*** (0.0697)
turk2nd	0.1759 (0.7114)
yugosl1st	0.2079** (0.0747)
yugosl2nd	-1.2079** (0.3901)
greek1st	0.0912 (0.1198)
greek2nd	-0.8480 (0.4660)
italian1st	0.5746*** (0.0963)
italian2nd	-0.5065 (0.2629)
spaniard1st	-0.0874 (0.1820)
spaniard2nd	0.7790 (0.5033)
pole1st	0.1686* (0.0766)
pole2nd	0.0000 (.)
russian1st	0.6729*** (0.0899)
russian2nd	0.0000 (.)
_lcohort_1	0.1576*** (0.0189)
_lcohort_3	-0.0773 (0.0877)
bilzeit	-0.0612*** (0.0034)
_cons	2.5279*** (0.0437)
<i>N</i>	21029
<i>r</i> ²	0.0453
<i>F</i>	58.5899
<i>ll</i>	-3.422e+04

OLS Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 19: Age at first Child

Ethnic Origin	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	25.33	26.03
Germany		24.97
Turkey	22.74	27.00
Ex-Yugoslavia	23.01	26.17
Greece	23.91	25.25
Italy	23.86	25.53
Spain	24.56	23.29
Poland	23.92	
Russia	24.10	

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, only women older 40

4.10 Language Proficiency

Language proficiency of the host country has been proven to be of paramount importance for social and economic integration. Using GSOEP's subjective answers on language (both oral and written), we measure linguistic abilities on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 denotes "very good" language ability and 5 a "very poor" one. In general, reported written skills are worse than speaking abilities regardless of ethnic group and immigrant generation. These statistics are presented in Table 22. They refer to 2005 wave, the most recent year with information on language proficiency.

It is assumed that second generation immigrants should have better languages skills than first generation immigrants since by definition immigrants who belong to the second generation were born in Germany and therefore mostly attended school and further education in Germany. As expected, their reported language abilities are higher regarding both spoken and written use of German regardless of ethnic group. This shows a positive linguistic integration of second generation immigrants.

Linguistic comparisons by ethnic groups show that Turks have the lowest German language proficiency among all ethnic groups. They seem to be the least integrated with respect to language. A possible explanation is related to the fact that language proficiency is self-reported and might impose measurement errors and group specific characteristics. Some immigrant groups might overstate their abilities whereas other groups might continuously understate their skills. This might bias the results. Another explanation relies on the reported information, the low language abilities of Turks might be induced by group size and enclave effects. Since Turks represent the largest single ethnic group in Germany, they are more likely to socialize within their ethnic community and do not need to put much effort into learning the German language in order to manage everyday life situations. Thus, poor language abilities might indeed signal less integration and more ethnic segregation

Table 20: Age at 1st child

	(1)
Ethnic Origin	Women older 40
other1st	0.5174** (0.1713)
other2nd	1.5093 (0.8393)
turk1st	-0.2487 (0.2712)
turk2nd	2.6110 (2.6516)
yugos1st	-0.4985 (0.2938)
yugos2nd	1.5441 (1.8760)
greek1st	0.3218 (0.4666)
greek2nd	0.0025 (2.2979)
italian1st	0.4211 (0.3613)
italian2nd	1.6586 (1.1492)
spaniard1st	1.6142* (0.7372)
spaniard2nd	-1.9351 (1.8762)
pole1st	-0.4798 (0.2917)
pole2nd	0.0000 (.)
russian1st	-0.2744 (0.3482)
russian2nd	0.0000 (.)
_Icohort_1	1.0951*** (0.0746)
_Icohort_3	1.4746*** (0.3544)
bilzeit	0.5598*** (0.0138)
_cons	17.9516*** (0.1762)
<i>N</i>	18866
<i>r</i> ²	0.0873
<i>F</i>	106.0226
<i>ll</i>	-5.552e+04

OLS Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 21: Religious Distribution

Ethnic Origin		Women					Undenom.
		Catholic	Protestant	Other Christ.	Islam	Other Rel.	
Others	1.Gen	32,75	35,81	9,17	3,28	2,18	16,81
	2.Gen	33,71	41,57	2,25	3,37	0,00	19,10
Turkey	1.Gen	0,47	0,00	2,37	87,20	1,42	8,53
	2.Gen	0,00	1,37	2,74	84,93	1,37	9,59
Ex-Yugoslavia	1.Gen	43,09	4,07	24,39	20,33	0,00	8,13
	2.Gen	36,36	4,55	20,45	20,45	0,00	18,18
Greece	1.Gen	0,00	0,00	92,31	5,13	0,00	2,56
	2.Gen	8,33	12,50	75,00	0,00	0,00	4,17
Italy	1.Gen	83,08	3,08	6,15	0,00	0,00	7,69
	2.Gen	80,70	10,53	8,77	0,00	0,00	0,00
Spain	1.Gen	93,33	6,67	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
	2.Gen	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Poland	1.Gen	81,95	8,27	1,50	0,75	0,00	7,52
	2.Gen	50,00	16,67	0,00	5,56	0,00	27,78
Russia	1.Gen	19,23	51,92	17,31	0,00	2,88	8,65
	2.Gen	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
German		28,99	39,40	1,23	0,08	0,05	30,25

		Men					Undenom.
		Catholic	Protestant	Other Christ.	Islam	Other Rel.	
Others	1.Gen	28,29	34,45	7,84	5,60	1,96	21,85
	2.Gen	38,46	28,57	0,00	4,40	0,00	28,57
Turkey	1.Gen	0,93	0,00	0,93	88,43	1,39	8,33
	2.Gen	0,00	0,00	7,14	81,43	4,29	7,14
Ex-Yugoslavia	1.Gen	29,36	1,83	25,69	32,11	0,00	11,01
	2.Gen	43,75	9,38	18,75	21,88	0,00	6,25
Greece	1.Gen	0,00	0,00	88,64	4,55	0,00	6,82
	2.Gen	4,00	8,00	68,00	4,00	0,00	16,00
Italy	1.Gen	90,24	2,44	2,44	0,00	0,00	4,88
	2.Gen	81,25	8,33	4,17	0,00	0,00	6,25
Spain	1.Gen	89,47	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	10,53
	2.Gen	41,67	25,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	33,33
Poland	1.Gen	75,26	6,19	3,09	0,00	0,00	15,46
	2.Gen	53,85	15,38	0,00	7,69	0,00	23,08
Russia	1.Gen	23,33	51,11	10,00	0,00	2,22	13,33
	2.Gen	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
German		27,46	34,86	0,95	0,10	0,15	36,47

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, only women older 40

among Turks.

Differences by gender within each ethnic group are straightforward. Namely, first generation women have better German language skills than comparable men of Spanish, Polish and Russian origin in contrast to worse self-reported skills among the other immigrant groups within the first generation. In the second generation, German language abilities seem to be mostly better for women than for men regardless of ethnic group in both spoken and written use of language.

Concerning the language of the country of origin the opposite results are true. Here it is the first generation immigrants that reports better language abilities. This can be explained through the greater attachment of this generation to their home country, the fact that they were raised with this language and the possibility that even if some of them were illiterate, they still know how to speak the origin language but it would be much more difficult to learn a foreign language.²¹

Table 22: Language Proficiency

Ethnic Origin	German Language				Language of Country of Origin			
	Women		Men		Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
	Speaking				Speaking			
Other	1.77	1.14	1.82	1.15	1.68	2.20	1.80	2.35
Turkey	2.84	1.45	2.39	1.50	1.69	2.10	1.63	2.20
Ex-Yugoslavia	2.13	1.18	2.05	1.27	1.57	2.09	1.56	2.27
Greece	2.40	1.22	2.34	1.33	1.54	1.65	1.36	1.89
Italy	2.29	1.33	2.26	1.32	1.57	2.05	1.53	2.19
Spain	1.75	1.00	2.07	1.10	1.30	2.67	1.52	2.00
Poland	1.68	no obs	1.88	no obs	1.74	no obs	1.75	no obs
Russia	1.89	no obs	2.08	1.00	1.81	no obs	1.78	1.00
	Writing				Writing			
Other	2.01	1.33	2.11	1.23	1.91	2.60	2.11	2.50
Turkey	3.38	1.64	3.04	1.74	2.15	2.47	1.94	2.71
Ex-Yugoslavia	2.86	1.31	2.57	1.39	1.83	2.73	1.77	3.12
Greece	3.05	1.39	2.85	1.41	1.89	2.22	1.66	2.41
Italy	3.23	1.55	3.12	1.62	2.05	2.56	1.90	2.94
Spain	2.75	1.33	3.07	1.20	1.65	2.67	1.83	3.10
Poland	1.91	no obs	2.20	no obs	2.10	no obs	2.19	no obs
Russia	2.21	no obs	2.45	1.00	1.99	no obs	2.05	1.00

Scale from 1 (very good) to 5 (none at all)

Source: GSOEP, 2005

²¹For further research on the impact of language on earnings see e.g. Chiswick and Miller (1995) [17]; Chiswick and Miller (1998) [18]; Dustmann and van Soest (2002) [20]

4.11 Political Interest

The degree of political interest of a country's population can be extremely informative when we look at integration processes. Table 23 depicts immigrants' and Germans' political interest in 2005. It is measured on a scale from 0 to 4, where 1 refers to "very interested" and 4 to "completely disinterested". Most immigrants show less interest in politics than natives. Turks in particular, show a comparably low interest in politics regardless of immigrant generation, whereas Poles seem to be the most interested in politics. Comparisons across generations show that the second generation tends to be more politically interested than the first one indicating again a greater commitment to Germany of later generations.

Table 23: Political Interest

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	3.00	3.11	2.64	2.59
Germany		2.78		2.44
Turkey	3.51	3.25	2.97	3.03
Ex-Yugoslavia	3.24	3.17	2.91	2.88
Greece	3.47	3.21	3.01	3.13
Italy	3.34	3.23	2.94	2.95
Spain	3.00	2.86	3.03	2.69
Poland	3.09	2.91	2.58	2.61
Russia	3.23	3.63	2.92	2.56

Scale from 1 (very interested) to 4 (not at all interested)
Source: GSOEP, 2005

Running a simple regression on the degree of political interest (Table 24) confirms the descriptive statistics picture. Accordingly, the index increases for almost all immigrant groups regardless of gender implying lower political interest for most immigrant groups compared to natives. But since the increase is stronger for the first compared to the second generation within each ethnic group the assumption that second generation immigrants are more interested in politics is supported by these results. Indeed, later generations exhibit greater concern in political and social processes in Germany and thus better political integration among those immigrants born in Germany.

4.12 Self-Identification with Germany

That the second generation is more integrated becomes also visible from Tables 25 and 26 that report self-identification with Germany and with the country of origin. Identification is measured on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 refers to "complete identification" with either Germany or the country of ancestry and 5 refers to "no identification" with the respective country.

Table 24: Political interest

Ethnic Origin	Women	Men
other1st	0.1665*** (0.0200)	0.1574*** (0.0244)
other2nd	0.1477** (0.0482)	-0.0143 (0.0493)
turk1st	0.3902*** (0.0293)	0.2395*** (0.0302)
turk2nd	0.1691** (0.0555)	0.1645** (0.0592)
yugosl1st	0.2439*** (0.0368)	0.2884*** (0.0428)
yugosl2nd	0.1038 (0.0654)	0.1059 (0.0796)
greek1st	0.4988*** (0.0623)	0.4061*** (0.0655)
greek2nd	0.2796** (0.0867)	0.4980*** (0.0946)
italian1st	0.3296*** (0.0514)	0.2803*** (0.0480)
italian2nd	0.1791** (0.0577)	0.2597*** (0.0676)
spaniard1st	0.1210 (0.1030)	0.3480*** (0.0953)
spaniard2nd	-0.1284 (0.1636)	0.2645 (0.1366)
pole1st	0.2323*** (0.0357)	0.0787 (0.0455)
pole2nd	-0.0090 (0.1174)	-0.0467 (0.1412)
russian1st	0.3487*** (0.0415)	0.3276*** (0.0482)
russian2nd	0.0000 (.)	-0.1803 (0.2918)
_lcohort_1	-0.1771*** (0.0105)	-0.1603*** (0.0118)
_lcohort_3	0.2400*** (0.0095)	0.1926*** (0.0108)
bilzeit	-0.0919*** (0.0016)	-0.0997*** (0.0017)
_cons	3.8573*** (0.0211)	3.6589*** (0.0227)
<i>N</i>	31689	28877
<i>r</i> ²	0.1451	0.1544
<i>F</i>	298.6321	277.2404
<i>ll</i>	-3.421e+04	-3.348e+04

OLS Regression, year 2005

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

As depicted in these two tables the second generation has a clear tendency toward more identification with Germany and less identification with the country of the parents' origin. This tendency is noticeable for all immigrant groups. Looking within ethnic groups one can see that especially Poles and Russians show a great commitment to Germany whereas Turks and Greeks still feel closely bound to their country of origin.

Table 25: Identification with Germany

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	2.29	1.90	2.13	2.33
Turkey	3.89	3.25	3.60	2.97
Ex-Yugoslavia	3.29	2.76	3.32	2.67
Greece	3.85	3.04	3.72	2.70
Italy	3.54	2.81	3.59	2.84
Spain	3.38	3.13	3.42	2.54
Poland	2.03	no obs	1.93	no obs
Russia	1.65	no obs	1.60	no obs

Scale from 1 (complete identification) to 5 (no identification)
Source: GSOEP, 1999

Table 26: Identification with Country of Origin

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	3.15	3.20	3.36	3.67
Turkey	2.18	2.90	2.26	2.76
Ex-Yugoslavia	2.33	2.59	2.29	3.03
Greece	1.84	2.29	1.82	2.82
Italy	2.02	2.54	1.95	2.47
Spain	1.77	3.13	1.68	2.38
Poland	3.15	no obs	3.22	no obs
Russia	3.16	no obs	3.53	no obs

Scale from 1 (complete identification) to 5 (no identification)
Source: GSOEP, 1999

4.13 Risk Behavior

Turning now to more general differences in characteristics between immigrants and Germans, Table 27 shows self-reported information about their risk attitudes. Studies have shown that adaptation to the attitudes of the majority population closes the immigrant-native gap in risk proclivity, while stronger commitment to the home country preserves it (Bonin et al., 2006 [6] and Bonin (2006) [6]). As risk attitudes are behaviorally relevant, and vary by ethnic origin, these findings could help explain differences in the socio-economic assimilation of immigrants. The risk loving tendencies of people are

measured on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 refers to "completely risk averse" and 10 to "completely risk loving". We find that second generation immigrants seem to be more risk loving than their first generation counterparts. This generation difference is especially pronounced for female Turks. The average risk level of first generation Turks is 2.57 and thus on the lower level of the scale whereas the average value for second generation Turkish women is 4.15 and therefore very close to the average value of native women (4.07). In general first generation immigrants seem to be more risk averse than Germans whereas second generation immigrants tend to be as risk loving as natives or even more.

Table 27: Risk Attitude

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	3.56	4.81	4.63	5.71
Germany		4.07		4.98
Turkey	2.57	4.15	4.01	5.21
Ex-Yugoslavia	3.03	5.55	4.29	5.50
Greece	2.28	3.92	3.20	4.97
Italy	3.13	4.14	4.32	5.65
Spain	3.57	4.26	4.17	5.17
Poland	3.95	4.31	4.82	6.09
Russia	3.23	5.33	3.94	3.50

Scale from 0 (completely risk averse) to 10 (completely risk loving)
Source: GSOEP, 2005

These raw statistics are supported by estimation results as shown in Table 28. The risk index is smaller for most first generation women - except Spaniards - compared to natives indicating more risk aversion. Among second generation women, only Turkish, Polish and ex-Yugoslav women differ from natives. For men, the picture is slightly different. Second generation men seem not to differ at all from natives, whereas first generation Turks, Greeks, ex-Yugoslavs and Russians tend to be more risk averse than German men. Especially men and women who belong to the first generation Turks, Greeks and Russians show high levels of risk aversion compared to natives. These results may clash with what was previously believed or to what intuition would predict but are in line with previous studies. Bonin et al. (2009) [7] confirm that first-generation migrants have lower risk attitudes than natives, which only equalize in the second generation. One explanation could be related to the first generation's insecurities in their social and economic situation in Germany. Yes, first generation immigrants may have been more risk takers than their co-ethnics who never left the home country, but this risk could subside once they arrived in the host country.

Table 28: Risk Attitude

Ethnic Origin	Women	Men
other1st	-0.5979*** (0.0658)	-0.4748*** (0.0741)
other2nd	0.4696** (0.1558)	0.1367 (0.1454)
turk1st	-1.2518*** (0.0936)	-0.7447*** (0.0893)
turk2nd	-0.3704* (0.1816)	-0.2663 (0.1849)
yugosl1st	-0.7370*** (0.1177)	-0.5969*** (0.1267)
yugosl2nd	0.8736*** (0.2124)	0.2534 (0.2417)
greek1st	-1.2250*** (0.1955)	-1.2120*** (0.1946)
greek2nd	-0.3524 (0.2730)	-0.3650 (0.2847)
italian1st	-0.5345** (0.1635)	-0.2017 (0.1425)
italian2nd	-0.1927 (0.1915)	0.1156 (0.2072)
spaniard1st	-0.3151 (0.3204)	-0.5418 (0.2800)
spaniard2nd	0.1074 (0.5173)	-0.4959 (0.4052)
pole1st	-0.3753** (0.1154)	-0.1191 (0.1367)
pole2nd	-1.0322** (0.3885)	0.8118 (0.4440)
russian1st	-0.8887*** (0.1371)	-1.0461*** (0.1498)
russian2nd	0.0000 (.)	-2.2127* (0.9911)
_lcohort_1	-0.8838*** (0.0340)	-0.8800*** (0.0355)
_lcohort_3	0.4113*** (0.0315)	0.5992*** (0.0334)
bilzeit	0.1145*** (0.0053)	0.1048*** (0.0051)
_cons	2.7723*** (0.0691)	3.6847*** (0.0693)
<i>N</i>	28063	25530
<i>r</i> ²	0.0887	0.0805
<i>F</i>	151.7024	117.5073
<i>ll</i>	-6.184e+04	-5.653e+04

OLS Regression, year 2005, Scale 0 to 10

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

4.14 Overall Life Satisfaction

With respect to overall life satisfaction Table 29 shows that there is not much difference between immigrants and natives. Life satisfaction is also measured on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 denotes "complete dissatisfaction" and 10 "complete satisfaction". Second generation immigrants score, on average, greater values on that index (at or even above 7). Evidently, they tend to be more satisfied in life than their parents who were born abroad. The life satisfaction values of natives lie somewhere in between the values of first and second generation immigrants.

Table 29: Overall Life Satisfaction

Ethnic Origin	Women		Men	
	1.Gen	2.Gen	1.Gen	2.Gen
Other	7.07	7.20	7.03	7.00
Germany	6.95		6.95	
Turkey	6.32	7.04	6.28	6.86
Ex-Yugoslavia	6.56	7.17	6.59	6.94
Greece	6.50	7.13	6.76	7.10
Italy	6.47	7.28	6.70	7.37
Spain	6.48	6.95	6.90	7.40
Poland	6.86	7.45	6.85	7.54
Russia	7.03	7.50	7.09	7.78

Scale from 0 (completely dissatisfied) to 10 (completely satisfied)
Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007

Estimation outputs in Table 30 show hardly any significant deviation between immigrants and natives. It is only for some groups such as the first generation Turks and first generation ex-Yugoslav men that the index decreases indicating a lower life satisfaction for these immigrants than for Germans. The deviation from natives is especially big for first generation Turks of either gender. In contrast, immigrants such as second generation Italian women and first generation Russians seem to be more satisfied than natives. Overall, we find that immigrants integrate perfectly in terms of self-reported life satisfaction.

4.15 Female Labor Force Participation

Finally, we consider the economic integration of the German population. Table 31 reports the female labor force participation by ethnic group and generation. The variable used equals one if the individual is working full-or part-time and zero if that individual is unemployed or irregularly working. Schooling and no information are coded as missing. The underlying sample is restricted to women older than 20 and under 65. The share of women working full-or part-time differs noticeably by immigrant group and

Table 30: Overall Life Satisfaction

Ethnic Origin	Women	Men
other1st	0.1333** (0.0502)	0.1504** (0.0559)
other2nd	0.0116 (0.1208)	-0.0549 (0.1126)
turk1st	-0.3624*** (0.0735)	-0.4075*** (0.0690)
turk2nd	-0.2061 (0.1393)	-0.2548 (0.1355)
yugosl1st	-0.1542 (0.0923)	-0.1946* (0.0979)
yugosl2nd	0.0545 (0.1642)	-0.0343 (0.1823)
greek1st	-0.1553 (0.1569)	0.1371 (0.1495)
greek2nd	-0.0574 (0.2191)	-0.1069 (0.2166)
italian1st	-0.1519 (0.1293)	0.0545 (0.1100)
italian2nd	0.3305* (0.1442)	0.2553 (0.1548)
spaniard1st	-0.2142 (0.2584)	0.3408 (0.2181)
spaniard2nd	0.1430 (0.4104)	0.3804 (0.3128)
pole1st	-0.0644 (0.0894)	0.0159 (0.1044)
pole2nd	0.1510 (0.2945)	0.3197 (0.3233)
russian1st	0.1478 (0.1042)	0.3188** (0.1106)
russian2nd	0.0000 (.)	0.3994 (0.6680)
_lcohort_1	0.0906*** (0.0264)	0.2384*** (0.0270)
_lcohort_3	0.2873*** (0.0239)	0.3204*** (0.0247)
bilzeit	0.0925*** (0.0041)	0.1104*** (0.0039)
_cons	5.7082*** (0.0529)	5.4029*** (0.0520)
<i>N</i>	31686	28874
<i>r</i> ²	0.0260	0.0362
<i>F</i>	46.9283	57.0863
<i>ll</i>	-6.336e+04	-5.740e+04

OLS Regression, years 2005 - 2007, Scale 0 to 10

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

generation. Only 21.11 percent of first generation Turkish women work full- or part-time, whereas in later generations the share is 10 percentage points higher, namely 30.40 percent. Similar differences can be observed for ex-Yugoslav women. Here the difference between first and second generation also amounts to about 10 percentage points; it is 37.53 and 47.14 percent respectively. Clearly, labor market participation is higher for second generation immigrants from these groups. However, it is still much lower than the labor force participation rate of native women (about 50 percent). The exception is Greek women who have higher labor market participation rates than German women in both generations. It is interesting that first generation Greek women have higher labor market participation rates than later generations. Similarly, first generation Italian women show very high participation rates of over 45.00 percent.

Table 31: Female Labor Force Participation

Ethnic Origin		Unempl. or Irreg. Empl.	Full- or Part-time	Schooling or no Info
Other	<i>1.Gen</i>	45.00	39.21	15.79
	<i>2.Gen</i>	34.43	40.57	25.00
Turkey	<i>1.Gen</i>	65.00	21.11	13.89
	<i>2.Gen</i>	42.73	30.40	26.87
Ex-Yugoslavia	<i>1.Gen</i>	44.52	37.53	17.95
	<i>2.Gen</i>	37.86	47.14	15.00
Greece	<i>1.Gen</i>	31.45	54.03	14.52
	<i>2.Gen</i>	37.97	50.63	11.39
Italy	<i>1.Gen</i>	37.38	45.33	17.29
	<i>2.Gen</i>	34.92	43.92	21.16
Spain	<i>1.Gen</i>	46.94	32.65	20.41
	<i>2.Gen</i>	35.71	21.43	42.86
Poland	<i>1.Gen</i>	31.40	50.78	17.82
	<i>2.Gen</i>	39.58	35.42	25.00
Russia	<i>1.Gen</i>	38.64	43.05	18.31
	<i>2.Gen</i>	28.57	0.00	71.43
Germany		37.23	49.38	13.39

Source: GSOEP, 2005 - 2007, women between 20 and 65

Estimation results presented in Table 32 corroborate these raw statistics. Accordingly, first generation Italian, Greek and Polish women are more likely to work than natives. Turkish women are less likely to work compared to Germans regardless of generation. This indicates lower economic integration by some immigrant groups but also very good labor market integration by others. In general, there are hardly any differences between second generation immigrants and natives with respect to full- or part-time work for those who are not in school and for whom information about labor market status is available.

Table 32: Female labor force participation

Ethnic Origin	Women between 20 and 65
other1st (d)	-0.0922*** (0.0160)
other2nd (d)	-0.0025 (0.0384)
turk1st (d)	-0.2088*** (0.0229)
turk2nd (d)	-0.1194** (0.0430)
yugos1st (d)	-0.0056 (0.0282)
yugos2nd (d)	0.0561 (0.0479)
greek1st (d)	0.2223*** (0.0397)
greek2nd (d)	0.0024 (0.0650)
italian1st (d)	0.0847* (0.0372)
italian2nd (d)	0.0367 (0.0421)
spaniard1st (d)	-0.0517 (0.0851)
spaniard2nd (d)	-0.0977 (0.1318)
pole1st (d)	0.0757** (0.0265)
pole2nd (d)	-0.1090 (0.0894)
russian1st (d)	-0.0126 (0.0335)
_Icohort_1 (d)	-0.5108*** (0.0105)
_Icohort_3 (d)	-0.0490*** (0.0070)
bilzeit	0.0421*** (0.0014)
<i>N</i>	24244
<i>r</i> ²	
<i>F</i>	
<i>ll</i>	-1.561e+04

Logit Regression, years 2005 - 2007

Marginal effects; Standard errors in parentheses

(d) for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

5 Conclusion

This chapter studies the cultural integration of immigrants in Germany. To gauge integration, we use natives as the gold standard and refer to them every time we look at the cultural and general socio-economic and political progress of immigrants. We cover various social and economic aspects of the life of immigrants in Germany using data from the German Socio Economic Panel (GSOEP) for the period 2005 to 2007. Specifically, we study marital behavior, family structure, soft skills such as risk attitudes and overall life satisfaction, German language proficiency and self-identification as well as economic characteristics such as female labor force participation. In order to capture trends and developments over time we analyze and study these indicators of socio-cultural and economic aspects for first and second immigrant generations. Additionally, emphasis was put on differences between certain immigrant groups, in particular immigrants who originate from the former guest worker countries as well as immigrants from Poland and Russia who represent more recent influences in immigrant inflows to Germany. We examined and presented both raw statistics and estimation results on the above mentioned indicators.

Considering marriage patterns is crucial in the integration process of immigrants²² since marriage and partner choice express individual commitment and attachment to the members of a host country's society at a very intimate level. Convergence between immigrants and natives with respect to family behavior signals to what extent immigrants adapt to German specific norms and embrace German habits.

Empirical results imply trends towards more singledom among native Germans. This trend seems to be adopted by the second generation. Similar findings are observed regarding age at first marriage and the age and education gap between spouses. Accordingly, first generation immigrants tend to be married more often and at younger ages than natives and the second generation. Clearly, they seem to cling to different role allocations and traditions than Germans and their offspring generation.²³ Age gaps and educational differences between partners are greater for older generations and mostly not different from natives for younger cohorts. Inter-marriage rates depict a deep entanglement between immigrants and the native population. This can be seen as a special integration measure fostering economic integration. In general, the bigger the single ethnic group the less likely their

²²For further research on the effect of marriage on economic success see e.g. Korenmann and Neumark (1991) [27]; Angrist (2002) [2]

²³see e.g. Backer and Benjamin (1997) [3] for differences in the human capital accumulation of immigrants.

members are to intermarry. This holds especially for Turks and members of the native population who show the lowest rate of intermarriage among all ethnic groups.

Furthermore, fertility rates, age at first child and female labor force participation differ significantly between natives and first generation immigrants indicating different conceptions of gender roles and work allocation within the family between these groups. Differences vanish or at least diminish for later immigrant generations implying greater adoption of German norms and perceptions for immigrants born in Germany. Comparing language and identification indexes among different ethnic groups, we observe noticeable discrepancies between generations. Thus, second generation immigrants report higher levels of language proficiency than members of their parental generation indicating better linguistic integration. Additionally, self-reported identification with Germany is stronger for immigrants born in Germany expressing greater commitment to Germany and its society. All these findings fit the assumption that the second generation immigrants can enjoy a successful integration.

Finally, the underlying data provide information about soft characteristics such as risk aversion, overall life satisfaction and political interest opening unique opportunities to compare immigrants and natives also in the field of behavioral economics. Accordingly, immigrants and natives do not differ much with respect to life satisfaction. They do differ regarding risk attitudes. Immigrants seem to be slightly less risk loving than natives, but differences mainly disappear for later immigrant cohorts, indicating that also from that perspective, younger immigrants converge towards native attitudes. Regarding political involvement, immigrants are in general less politically concerned than natives, but again the second generation political interests are more in line with natives expressing better integration also in this dimension.

As a final remark, and referring to Turks as one immigrant group with pronounced differences, this analysis shows that comparison by generation is crucial when making statements about the integration process of ethnic groups in Germany. Turks differ in various ways from natives and also from other immigrant groups. They are more likely to be married in general, more often married at young ages and often have more children than the average German person. Their language abilities are worse compared to other immigrants, they report a lower identification with Germany and more commitment to their home country than others, and their religious beliefs are diverse from that of natives and co-immigrants. They report the lowest level of political interest and lower levels of life satisfaction than other immigrant groups. And finally, their labor force participation rates are comparably low.

All these findings indicate that Turks are the least integrated immigrant

group with respect to the integration indicators considered in this study. But when studying Turkish immigrants by generation, it is clear that the second generation shows a tendency towards parity with native Germans. Second generation Turks show higher intermarriage rates, similar behavior as natives in terms of age at first marriage, age at first child and number of children. They report better German language proficiency both regarding speaking and writing skills as well as greater identification with Germany and thus less commitment to the country of ancestry. So, even if this group of immigrants seems to be unintegratable, trends over time need to be honored and fostered.

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6 Appendix - Graphs

















